

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A centrifuge comprising:
 - 5 a central guide shaft,
 - b. a plurality of bobbins located around the guide shaft and rotatable therearound, and
 - c. a support member located around the bobbins and providing a substantially cylindrical inner surface around which the bobbins can rotate and operable to support the bobbins.
- 10 2. A centrifuge according to claim 1 wherein the support member is freely rotatable.
3. A centrifuge according to claim 1 wherein the support member is a drum.
- 15 4. A centrifuge according to claim 3 wherein the support member is freely rotatable.
5. A centrifuge according to claim 1 wherein the central guide shaft is a rotor.
- 20 6. A centrifuge according to claim 5, wherein the rotor is coupled to a drive to thereby allow driving of the bobbins.
7. A centrifuge according to claim 1 wherein the support member is rotatable, and 25 the centrifuge further comprises a drive unit coupled to the support member to rotate the support member, whereby the bobbins may be rotated.

8. A centrifuge according to claim 1 wherein the bobbins are located on plane bearings.

5 9. A centrifuge according to claim 1 further comprising fluid-carrying passages on or within at least one of the bobbins.

10 10. A centrifuge comprising:

- a. a guide shaft,
- b. two or more bobbins orbitally arranged about the guide shaft, and
- c. a support member having a substantially cylindrical inner surface whereupon the bobbins rotate.

15 11. A centrifuge according to claim 10 wherein the support member is freely rotatable drum.

12. A centrifuge according to claim 10 wherein the central guide shaft is a rotor coupled to a drive to thereby allow driving of the bobbins.

20 13. A centrifuge according to claim 10 wherein the bobbins are located on plane bearings.

14. A centrifuge according to claim 10 further comprising fluid-carrying passages on or within at least one of the bobbins.

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15. A centrifuge comprising:
 - a. a guide shaft;
 - b. two or more bobbins riding on the guide shaft, each bobbin bearing a fluid-carrying passage; and
 - c. a support member having a substantially cylindrical inner surface whereupon the bobbins ride.
- 10 16. A centrifuge according to claim 15 wherein the support member is freely rotatable drum.
17. A centrifuge according to claim 15 wherein the bobbins are located on plane bearings.